

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 247134

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, BTRA, UR (ASHASTIN, RUDOLF)

SUBJECT: COMMERCIAL VISA PROCEDURES

REFS: (A) MOSCOW 16180; (B) STATE 216220; (C) STATE 244109

1. EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO INFORM MFA THAT DEPARTMENT WAS ABLE TO AUTHORIZE VISAS IN ASHASTIN CASE PER REFTEL C BECAUSE CLOSED AREA EXCEPTIONS WERE UNNECESSARY. OMAHA IS OPEN CITY AND CONTROL DATA CORPORATION INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT TRIPS SCHEDULED FOR ENVIRONS OF SAN FRANCISCO DO NOT INCLUDE CLOSED AREAS. PLEASE REMIND MFA OF REQUIREMENT FOR EXCEPTION REQUESTS AND OF DESIRABILITY OF PHRASING REQUESTS AS GENERAL, CONDITIONAL STATEMENT PER PARA 2C, REFTEL B, LEAVING SPECIFICATION OF CLOSED AREAS TO DEPARTMENT.

2. IN VIEW POTENTIAL MARGIN FOR ERROR IN SOVIETS THEMSELVES DETERMINING WHICH ARE AND WHICH ARE NOT CLOSED AREAS, AS EXEMPLIFIED IN ASHASTIN CASE, DEPARTMENT WOULD STRONGLY PREFER THAT SOVIETS ACCEPT OPTION OF SUBMITTING GENERAL REQUEST FOR EXCEPTION. IF, HOWEVER, MFA SHOULD CONTINUE TO SUBMIT NOTES ALONG LINES OF ASHASTIN NOTE, DEPARTMENT WILL REVIEW THEM ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS.

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ALTHOUGH NOTES OF THIS KIND FALL SHORT OF FULL COMPLIANCE

WITH NEW VISA PROCEDURES, AS A GENERAL RULE DEPARTMENT WILL
FIND THEM ACCEPTABLE AS CONSTITUTING DE FACTO REQUEST FOR

CLOSED AREA EXCEPTION, PROVIDING THEY CONTAIN EXPLICIT
REFERENCE TO CLOSED AREAS. MAW

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